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REMARKS AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicant hereby confirms that Claims 1 - 8, Group I have been elected with traverse for prosecution. Accordingly, Claim 9 has been cancelled in response thereto.

The Examiner has pointed out that Claims 4 and 5, as originally submitted are duplicate. This oversight is simply a clerical error and Claim 5 has been amended to recite that the polyester compositions are the same. Support in the specification can be found at page 7, lines 19 - 20, wherein it is indicated that the polyester parts *may* be different in compositions. Other amendments have been made to correct typographical errors such as spelling.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3 as anticipated by Jones (WO 00/20157) or, in the alternative, as obvious over Jones. As recited by the Examiner, Jones discloses a laser welding method with the laser power of 10-500W and the welding speed of 30-1200cm/min.

The disclosure of Jones is, however, exceedingly broad (i.e. plastics, see page 3, lines 24 - 26, whereas Applicant's invention is limited to laser welding of *only* polyesters. Thus, while the Jones disclosure may overlap that of the present invention, it does not point out the welding parameters of the present invention. Heretofore, polyesters have been considered as poor candidates for laser welding because of their relatively low transmission of radiation in the near infrared range (specification at page 2, lines 22 - 25). Thus, applicants Claim 1, as currently amended, limits the laser beam energy, the scanning speed and the wavelength necessary to obtain high weld strengths in polyesters. Applicant asserts that the present method to obtain such high weld strengths from laser-welded polyesters is neither disclosed nor suggested in the Jones reference.

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Furthermore, Applicant asserts that the improved weld strengths are indeed an unexpected result of maintaining these welding parameters as claimed. This is clearly borne out by the comparison of weld strengths obtained using the claimed method vs. those obtained by welding outside the parameters of Applicant's invention, as disclosed in Figs. 3 and 7.

The Examiner has further rejected Claim 4 and 5 as being obvious over Jones in view of Routsalainen (US 6,802,929). It is conceded that the latter reference discloses PBT and PET in the context of laser welding. However, these references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach the necessary weld parameters of Claim 1 in order to obtain high weld strengths in such polyesters.

The Examiner has further rejected Claims 1 - 8 over Koshida (WO02/057353A2) in view of Jones. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art to limit the welding parameters of Applicant's invention to those recited in Claim 1 in view of the combined references. Applicant concedes that Koshida teaches laser welding of polyesters and that Jones teaches laser welding of plastics in general. However, neither reference teaches nor suggests that surprisingly high weld strengths can be obtained between polyester compositions when the welding parameters of Claim 1 are used.

Applicant traverses the Examiner's bases for obviousness and requests that the Examiner reconsider. Again, Applicant requests that the Examiner review the results of Figs. 3 and 7. Nothing in the references suggests that the peak weld strengths would be found within the parameters of Claim 1.

Applicant, having shown that all pending claims are in a condition for allowance, respectfully requests that office action in accordance therewith.

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In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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